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ORATION

AT THE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

ERECTION OF FORT WESTERN,

ON THE

ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE,

JULY 4, 1854.

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BY NATHAN WESTON, LL.D.

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AUGUSTA:

WILLIAM H. SIMPSON, PRINTER.

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1854.

# CITY OF AUGUSTA.

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BOARD OF ALDERMEN, September 2, 1854.

ORDERED, That the thanks of the City Council be tendered to the Honorable NATHAN WESTON for the eloquent and interesting address delivered by him upon the occasion of the late municipal celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the settlement of Fort Western, upon the Fourth of July last, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication; and that the Mayor, with such as the Common Council may join, be charged with the communication of the foregoing vote.

Passed, and sent down for concurrence.

DANIEL C. STANWOOD, *Clerk of the Board of Aldermen.*

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IN COMMON COUNCIL, September 2, 1854.

Read, and passed in concurrence; and Messrs. STAPLES, HODGKINS, and HEDGE joined on the part of the Council.

Attest:

ASAPH R. NICHOLS, *Clerk.*

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A true copy of the order and endorsements.

Attest:

DANIEL C. STANWOOD, *City Clerk.*

## ORATION.

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GEOLOGISTS find, in their survey of the earth, evidence of some of the cycles of a past eternity, if any terms of admeasurement can with propriety be applied to the infinite, which bewilder the imagination and belittle all the epochs with which humanity is conversant. But great or small, applied to time or space, is necessarily comparative. A single day has changed the fate of empires, and left its impress upon succeeding ages.

One hundred years, the period we have assembled to contemplate, is a respectable portion of the time covered by history. It transcends the term allotted to man, and embraces three generations. Every part of it has had its influence upon our present condition; and it comes home to our sensibilities, as including the time hitherto assigned to each one of us in the drama of life. It may well be doubted, whether any preceding century has surpassed in interest that which has just closed. In what it has accomplished, and still more in the budding and expanding germs of future promise, it justifies the hope of a still further development in human culture and renovation.

When our ancestors became acquainted with what is now New England, it contained a population wretched in the extreme, ignorant of all the arts and appliances necessary to make life comfortable, in a rigorous climate. Without the aid or knowledge of metals, they were unable to subdue and cultivate the earth. Without textile fabrics, they depended upon the integuments of the wolf and the bear for protection against the blasts and snows of winter. The domestic animals, so necessary to the use and comfort of man, were not found in the country.

At what period they reached this region, or from what portions



of the race they were offshoots, is lost to history, and is the subject merely of respectable conjecture, founded upon the affinities of language, the coincidence of usages, and the path and channels of emigration presumed to have been practicable. It has been affirmed, that from a stock thus degraded, the arts of life and the elements of civilization have never been known to arise from native development. It has even been doubted whether the native race is capable of being much benefitted by contact and intercourse with nations, in the enjoyment of the arts and embellishments of life. Hence the opinion is prevalent that they are doomed to pass away, incapable of culture or advancement. It is not my purpose to discuss this topic, although it is not without interest.

It is now conceded by the most intelligent, that the number of the native population north of Florida, and between the Atlantic and the Mississippi, has been greatly exaggerated. It is very questionable whether it ever exceeded half a million. But by their activity and stealthiness of movement, by land or water, they could be collected from great distances, in formidable numbers, and concentrated suddenly and secretly upon their victims, at assailable points. The history of these scenes is now given up to the antiquarian. No wife or mother remains, who, from fear of savage aggression, trembled for her infant in the cradle, or her husband in the field.

I am constrained to introduce this subject, however ungrateful, for I cannot go back in our history without bringing to the imagination the sound of the war-whoop, and the gleam of the tomahawk. I am old enough to have conversed with those who were not inexperienced in savage warfare, at no great distance from this neighborhood. The late Judge North informed me that in his youth, while his father, John North, whom Sullivan in his history calls a valiant man, was commander of the fort at Pemaquid, while the cattle were grazing in the fields around, and the men engaged in rural labors, they were unexpectedly assailed by a powerful Indian force, under the direction of a well-known chief. Some of the men fell before they could reach the shelter of the fort. With much difficulty, and after hours of severe conflict, they succeeded in beating off the enemy. Many flourishing and thriving settle-

ments in Maine, in its earliest history, were utterly destroyed by the Indians.

Two causes conspired to produce these fatal results: distance from the better settled parts of New England, and the rivalry of French power. On our northern and eastern flanks, as far westward as the Penobscot waters, the French colonies of Canada and Acadia were sustained with vigor. The social fascination and flexibility of the French character, aided by the imposing and attractive ceremonial of the Roman Catholic religion, seduced and wedded to their interests nearly all the Indian tribes. The sources of the Kennebec, and of the Chaudier, one of the affluents of the St. Lawrence, being in close proximity, the settlements on and near the Kennebec were constantly exposed to their attacks. It is well understood that Cushnoc, which was the Indian name of what now constitutes our city, was one of their favorite haunts.

At an early period, dating back now two hundred years, before French power had acquired much strength in Canada, there were flourishing English settlements on the Kennebec, of which Cushnoc was the most prominent.

They must have commenced under the grant by the Plymouth Council, in 1629, on the Kennebec, of what has since been called the Kennebec Purchase. It is quite remarkable, that in 1654, just two hundred years ago, Thomas Prince, having been invested with authority to settle a government on the Kennebec, issued his warrant for a meeting of the inhabitants, at the house of Thomas Ashley, at Merry Meeting. At that meeting Lieut. Thomas Southworth, of Cushnoc, was invested with power and authority to be assistant to the government, according to such good and wholesome laws as are or shall be made.

Cushnoc prospered for many years; and in 1716, a stone fort was built for its protection, and garrisoned at the public expense. But ten years afterwards, the Indians, having become active and aggressive, it was deemed expedient to abandon the settlement, and the Indians burnt and destroyed the fort, and the houses in the neighborhood. It lay desolate for many years. I am not aware that any evidence exists, that any successful attempt was made to re-settle this part of the country until 1754, when fort Western was built by the Kennebec proprietors, under the auspices



of Governor Shirley. An area of about fifty feet from its walls was enclosed by a palisade, with four block houses, one at each angle, which have been removed many years.

A war with France soon followed, not unattended with severe disasters; the principal of which was Braddock's defeat. But humbling as this was to the arrogance of British power, it covered the youthful Washington with a halo of glory, in furtherance of the high purposes for which he was reserved by an overruling Providence.

We have no connection with the original settlement of Cushnoc, which the red man destroyed. Our history takes a new departure from the erection of the fort. From that time its continuity is unbroken. Its traditions are yet fresh. The whole period is covered by the recollection of our older citizens, and the experience of those with whom they were intimate, who had been active upon the stage of life at the commencement of the century which was just closed.

Little was done to advance the settlement in the few years which elapsed between the erection of the fort and the fall of Quebec. Two gallant nations were in deadly conflict. The colonial resources of men and money were in requisition, apparently in aid of the home government, but really in furtherance of their own vital interests. On the plains of Abraham, the two European commanders, the youthful conqueror, and the heroic defender, each died on the field of battle, the soldier's bed of glory.

The lilies of France could not bloom in so severe a climate. They withered in the unkindly region, as the tri-colored flag of the same nation afterwards faded and bleached in the snows of Russia.

France defeated, but not dishonored, gracefully relinquished the sceptre of power in America, foreseeing that the gallant provincials, relieved from their pressure, would not long submit to metropolitan domination. They were soon destined to fraternize with the coming power, then casting its shadows before.

The country was at peace, and all apprehensions of danger from any quarter to the colonists at an end. It was a period favorable to the settlement of the Kennebec Purchase, which the proprietors took active measures to promote. They caused a large

part of their land to be surveyed into convenient lots, with a view to grant a portion of them gratuitously to actual settlers. This measure brought a respectable number of emigrants, principally from Massachusetts proper, into what became the town of Hallowell, of which we are a part, and its neighborhood. The prospects of the town continued to brighten, until checked by the revolution. When the war with the mother country actually commenced, in 1775, there may have been fifty families within the ancient limits of Hallowell.

James Howard, the first and only commandant at the fort, had built what usually went by the name of the great house, still standing on the easterly side of the river, about a mile above the bridge. This was for a short time, in the fall of 1775, the headquarters of Benedict Arnold, who commanded the expedition against Quebec, by the way of the Kennebec and the Chaudier. He was attended by the gallant and accomplished Burr, ultimately the victim of disappointed ambition.

Among the troubles of the day, were the measures brought to bear upon those who were suspected of favoring the royal cause. Some of these difficulties are presented in the diary and letters of the Rev. Mr. Bailey, an episcopal rector at Pownalborough. We there find many names still fresh in the recollection of our older citizens. Among those arrested at an early day was John Jones, for many years a resident, during the latter part of his life, in this town. He was a man of energy and courage, and frankly avowed his adherence to the king. He was required on peril of his life, to repudiate the royal authority, and to sign the revolutionary covenant of that day. The threat came from men generally determined and unrelenting. Jones sternly refused to do or say any thing inconsistent with the loyalty of a subject, and bared his bosom for the sacrifice. The threat was not executed, and he soon made his escape.

The war virtually closed with the capture of Cornwallis. If Cromwell had been in Washington's place, he would have called it his crowning mercy. I doubt not Washington was as grateful to heaven, as Cromwell would have been; but he had too much dignity of character to parade his piety.

At the close of the war, the emigration from Massachusetts and



New Hampshire into Maine was greatly increased. Soon after that event, almost every lot on the river, on both sides, within the ancient limits of Hallowell, was settled. Cultivation on the eastern bank was extended back about half a mile. Beyond, the wilderness was almost unbroken, until you reached the Penobscot waters. The beaver had been destroyed or driven off by the trappers, but many of their dams still remain, exhibiting their skill in engineering, in which they were never at fault. The bear had a wide range, not indeed unmolested, but still existing in great numbers. Not contented with the mast of the forest, to which he was entitled by long prescription, bruin, little regarding the laws of meum and teum, invaded the cornfields, in the open country, when it was sufficiently ripe, and the husk began to open. Since our city charter, he has appeared in some of our wards, intending, it may be, to keep up a perpetual claim to his ancient domain.

With a view to compare the past with the present, it may not be uninteresting to advert to the condition of the village parts of our city, on both sides of the river, as far back as my earliest remembrance. On the west side, there were twelve houses, only three of which had more than one story, two stores, and the old meeting-house, now a part of Winthrop Hall. On the east side, besides the fort and block houses, there were six dwelling-houses, and one store. Much of the native forest existed, especially south of what is now Green street. There was a thrifty second growth of pine on the declivity of Burnt Hill. There had been little clearing upon the table land, on its summit, and none from its descent westward for several miles. There were no wharves, and most of the slope of the bank east of Water street, was covered with trees. There was the river road, on the eastern side, generally at some distance from the bank, about where it now is. It connected with the ferry; but I am not aware that any public road existed running eastward from the river.

On the western side, there was no other road, except that at the river, and the one which led westward over Burnt Hill. At a former period, that road had passed where the western avenue now is, the traces of which were plainly to be seen; and from thence it had been deflected towards the mile rock, near to which there had been a ferry.



At the present day, a village, such as I have described, would be without attraction, promising nothing to stir the pulse of life. Such an inference would create an erroneous impression of the actual condition of things here at that period. The place was full of life and animation. It was the central point of a great part of the Kennebec country. The river was the thoroughfare of travel ; by its waters in the summer, and on the ice in the winter. The Fort, as the village was called, was resorted to for supplies, for exchanges, and for information in regard to passing events. All classes of people from the various settlements came here, not only on business, but to seek exhilaration from association with others ; often pouring into the cup of their enjoyment too large an infusion of artificial stimulants. Among those who usually led a laborious life at home, and were little accustomed to refinement, the gambols of exuberant spirits, in and about Pollard's tavern, which was the only public house in the village, were often more exciting than commendable.

Among the resident citizens, there was a strong desire to enjoy the advantages of moral and religious instruction from the pulpit. This was given from time to time by occasional preachers, until the ordination of the Rev. Isaac Foster, in 1786. I remember that event. I saw the assembled multitude, in the meeting-house and on the contiguous grounds. It was the spectacle which interested me. I have no recollection of the services. There followed the feasting and hilarity at that time usual on such occasions. Pollard's house resounded with music and dancing, kept up by relays of participants, quite beyond the power of endurance of a single set. Mr. Foster's connection with the town continued not more than three or four years. For reasons, which I am not now able to state, there was a general desire for his dismissal, which was ultimately effected. He soon after left this part of the country, and I have never been apprised of his subsequent history. For several years afterwards, the pulpit was again supplied by occasional preachers, among whom the Rev. and honorable Charles Turner, who had been many years a Senator in Massachusetts, was the most prominent. During that time the town of Hallowell was divided into three parishes ; South, Middle and North. The Middle embraced our village, which, since the separation of this town from

Hallowell, has been denominated the South parish in Augusta. In 1795, the Rev. Daniel Stone, a graduate of Harvard, was ordained the pastor of the Middle parish. He was an honest, good man; not brilliant, or deeply learned in polemical divinity. He took his religion from the Bible, which he revered, aided by the old commentators. He was understood to be in faith an Arminian; but he never bewildered himself or his hearers, by reasoning high on subjects transcending the power of the human understanding, in its present condition. He took an honorable dismissal in 1810, sustained by the regard and sympathy of powerful friends. Manifesting through his subsequent life a most Christian and submissive temper, he remained an irreproachable member of the church, of which he had been the pastor, and a constant attendant upon the ministrations of his successor.

For very many years we had no other place of public worship, except the capacious one belonging to the South parish. All church-going people in our village, on both sides of the river, assembled there together from Sabbath to Sabbath. I think this had a benign effect upon our population. Uniting in the high and holy purposes for which the worship of God, in obedience to the gospel, was instituted, they became better acquainted, better assimilated, and more friendly with each other. In consequence of the growth of the town, instead of one, we have now eight houses dedicated to public worship. It may be questionable, whether the number may not be greater than the population requires.

Thirty-six years after the erection of the Fort, notwithstanding two long wars had intervened, at the first census in 1790, Hallowell contained a population of over eleven hundred persons. With the growth of the country, the activity and importance of the village here had increased. It was made one of the shire-towns of the county of Lincoln, which embraced the whole country, from Hancock on the east, the frontier of Canada north, and the county of Cumberland south and west. While we remained a part of Lincoln, we had one term of the common pleas, annually.

The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, which in that day always sat in full bench, was holden but once a year, in the month of July, at Pownalborough, now Dresden, in the county of Lincoln; not only for that county, but for the counties of Hancock and



Washington, eastward. It was afterwards provided by law, that the sessions of that court should be removed from Pownalborough, and be holden in future, in alternate years, at Hallowell and Wiscasset. The first term of the court here was in July, 1794, now sixty years ago, in the old meeting-house, which was prepared for its accommodation.

The advent of the dignitaries of Massachusetts proper, Maine having at that time no Judge of the Supreme Court, was an important event. They were accompanied by some of the most distinguished jurists of the day; among whom, besides Sullivan, the Attorney General, were Theophilus Parsons and Nathan Dane, attended by three sheriffs, in their cocked hats, girt with swords, each with his long white staff of office.

In addition to this, the elite of the whole country, from Cumberland to the British lines, were assembled, some on business, and many to see and be seen, and to enjoy the novelty and excitement of the occasion.

The sitting of the Assizes in England, is made known by sound of trumpet. The court there represented the King, and the trumpet has been, from ancient times, one of the accompaniments of regal movement. But we never heard its stirring sounds here, except when Major Grant's corps of cavalry took position on the parade ground, at Hinkley's plain. We had no bell. If the oriental gong had then been in use, it would have been a fine instrument to announce the court. But having nothing better, they moved by beat of drum, in a procession not a little imposing, preceded by their officers, and followed by the bar. They had high duties to perform. The increasing value of land had brought out some titles that had remained dormant. These were subjected to judicial scrutiny. And where the general basis of claims was undisputed, there was often a severe conflict about lines and boundaries.

Under their criminal administration, Thoms, a man of great physical strength and ferocious passions, for a felonious assault upon Col. Leonard, of Orrington, by which he had been severely injured, sat upon the gallows, with a rope about his neck, for two hours, in the middle of the day, in the presence of the multitude, in the most public part of what is now Winthrop street. A poor

female was sentenced to suffer a similar punishment. She was the object of general commiseration. Sheriff Bridge, upon whom it devolved to execute the sentence, was a remarkably humane man. He was at that time at my father's. On the day of the sentence, he apprized me privately, that he should carry it into effect at daylight the next morning, in a part of the highway then quite out of the village. Accordingly, late at night a gallows was erected, upon which she sat for one hour, before sunrise the next morning; there being, to my recollection, no one present to witness the humiliation of the poor girl, but the sheriff, his deputy and myself; and she knew very well that no unkindly eye was upon her.

In addition to these and other criminal prosecutions, there were two indictments for murder; one against McCausland, and one against Edmund Fortis, a black man. When McCausland was arraigned, Mr. Parsons remarked, that he never saw a more imposing figure. He pleaded guilty; and upon being notified by the court of the consequences of such a plea, and advised to withdraw it, and to plead not guilty, that the government might be put upon their proof, he refused to do so, insisting with great dignity and force of language, that no consideration could induce him to violate the truth. He was not sentenced. It was a case of mania, of a peculiar character. Upon every other subject, except the shedding of blood, without which he had understood there could be no salvation, his reasoning powers were strong. He remained in prison, borne upon the calendar, which was presented every term to the court, as convict of murder, for more than twenty years, until his death.

The black man also pleaded guilty, which he meekly declined to retract, manifesting great penitence, and expressing his readiness to submit to the infliction of human justice. He suffered the extreme penalty of the law, exhibiting to the last the same spirit.

The theory and principles of our institutions remain unchanged; but the channels of influence, and the avenues to office were then somewhat different from what they are at present. President Washington had great experience, and was remarkable for a cool and steady judgment. He was very circumspect in his appointments. No one had the hardihood to present for his patronage



any man of doubtful character, or to address to him any motive, to guide his discretion, but what was, in the highest degree, pure and honorable. He would not suffer an unfaithful or incompetent man to remain in office, nor could he be persuaded to remove a good one. His example and policy were not lost upon the State government. A sense of honor, a regard for character, and a shrinking from whatever could lessen the true dignity of official position, in the eyes of respectable men, existed, and was sustained by a healthy tone of public opinion.

There were in every county, and in every considerable town, men of influence and weight of character, who were relied upon to bring forward and recommend candidates for official appointment, or for popular election. They were known to each other, and frequently met, formally or informally, at central points, for consultation and an interchange of ideas. As the circle enlarged, they acted by their representatives, in the general court at Boston, and in the federal Congress at Philadelphia. The sessions of the courts presented favorable times for these intercommunications, and gave necessarily a consequence to the place where they were holden.

Up to the period of which I have been speaking, the ascendancy of the Fort, or central village, was strongly marked, and little disputed. Soon after, under the patronage of the Vaughan family, who, in right of their mother, became the owners of very valuable land at the Hook, the appellation by which that part of Hallowell was then known, and through the efforts of some active and enterprising men, who had emigrated to that place, it had so grown and prospered, that it produced between the Hook and the Fort the jealousies and competitions, which are so often found to exist between neighboring villages.

The first sharp contest was upon the question, whether the Kennebec bridge should be located at the Fort or the Hook, which was finally decided in favor of the Fort.

The bridge was built in 1797. It was a graceful structure to the eye, spanning the river in two arches. Being however uncovered, after the lapse of nineteen years, the work became so weakened and decayed, that the eastern arch fell in 1816. It was on the Sabbath, while the citizens were attending public worship,

many of whom had but half an hour before passed the bridge in safety. It was rebuilt two years afterwards. But in April, 1827, it took fire in the evening, the cause of which has never been clearly ascertained. From its position, exposed to the action of the air to fan the flames, above and below, and on all sides, the whole structure was very soon in a state of ignition. In a few minutes the roof and external covering were consumed, bringing out to the eye the symmetry of its beautiful arches, and the nice tracery of its admirable frame-work, every square inch of which was glowing with the devouring element. It was sometime before its action upon the solid timber was such as to cause the structure to fall. While its burning arches still remained suspended, a more brilliant spectacle could not have been presented to the human eye. With an activity and energy, not possible at the present day, from the difficulty of procuring timber, the bridge was rebuilt, so as to become passable, in August of the same year.

The question of the bridge having been decided, our neighbors at the Hook struggled for the ascendancy in town meetings, and in municipal elections. This contest became at length so annoying, that the citizens at the Fort deemed it expedient to petition the general court to be incorporated into a separate town. I am not aware, that this measure was opposed. The township was large, and by the division each village had the separate management of its own concerns. Amos Stoddard, afterwards a Major in the army of the United States, a resident at the Hook, was at that time the representative of the town. By his advice, the new town was called Harrington, from a distinguished English patriot of that name. It was not acceptable to our citizens, and at the next session of the general court was changed to Augusta.

It may not be uninteresting, to consider for a moment how indelibly some distinguished names are impressed upon the history of the world. Julius and Augustus Cæsar were the two first Roman Emperors. Julius gives name to the present, and Augustus to the succeeding month. Cæsar in the western empire, and in the Byzantine, before it fell, was a high title of dignity, which was assumed also by the German Emperors. To me it seems, however, that the memory of the patriot Harrington, is better entitled to be cherished than that of Cæsar Augustus.



By the census of 1800, it appeared that the two towns contained double the population which was found in the same territory ten years before. The Kennebec country had so progressed and prospered, that a new county was created here, of which Augusta was made the shire town.

I think at that time, and for many years afterwards, there was a greater desire to obtain land, for the purpose of cultivation, than exists at present. Farms in many of our towns had a greater value in the market, than they now have. Many non-resident proprietors of uncultivated lands, realized large sums from sales, for actual settlement.

The ratio of increase in our population, although we have much good land, in the unsettled parts of our State, has diminished for the last thirty years. The capability of an unsettled township for agricultural purposes, is not now regarded as an element of value. This is much to be regretted, and I trust will be corrected.

The growth of towns and cities, and the extension of commerce and manufactures, stimulate agriculture. Maine suffered from the depredations of the belligerents, in the wars of the French revolution, from the embargo and restrictive system, and finally, from the last war with Great Britain, which almost prostrated the entire shipping interest.

Since the times have been more propitious, its recuperative power has been quite remarkable. The commercial marine of the State is now about equal to that of France, which has the ocean upon one side, and the Mediterranean upon the other. This commercial expansion, when not crippled by adverse circumstances, is very congenial to the habits of our people.

It has been stated, that the sea-coast of Maine, with its indentations, bays and rivers, has more fine harbors than can be found elsewhere on our whole sea-board this side of the gulf of Mexico. Many of our towns and cities are now growing rapidly ; and this, with the extension of railroads, to places distant from tide-waters, must accelerate the settlement of the country, and promote agriculture.

The geographical separation of Maine from Massachusetts, and its extensive territory, it was perceived at an early day, would inevitably bring Maine into the confederation, as an independent

State. After many struggles to effect this object, it was finally brought about in 1820. It was provided, I believe, without opposition, certainly with very little, that the first legislature should be holden at Portland.

As that was not a central point in the State, the arrangement was provisional, and the location of the permanent seat of government, was regarded as an open question. Until the matter was settled definitively, it was not expected that there would be a removal from Portland. Hence it became the obvious policy of gentlemen in their interest, to postpone a decision upon that point.

The claims of Augusta were considered from the beginning, as the most prominent. The principal strategy of their opponents was, to get up rival pretensions elsewhere. With a view to obviate the embarrassment thus created, Gen. Chandler, Judge Green and Dr. Rose, were appointed commissioners, to visit different parts of the State, and to report what site or location would, in their judgment, be the most eligible, upon which to erect a State house, which should permanently accommodate the government.

After taking time for the fulfilment of this duty, and hearing such gentlemen upon the question as desired to address them, they finally decided in favor of the site upon which the massive and splendid structure, now before me,\* has been erected, built partly from granite taken from the ground, but principally from the well-known quarry at Hallowell, where nature has provided a vast reservoir of this beautiful and imperishable material.

As a last resort, to defeat the result thus recommended, a resolve was introduced, providing that the session of the next legislature should be holden at Hallowell. To this Augusta and its friends promptly acceded; and the resolve passed the necessary legislative stages, and was approved by the Governor.

Checkmated by the unexpected acceptance of a measure which was never seriously intended to be carried into effect, by those who proposed it, the gentlemen at Portland acceded to terms of compromise, by which the government was to remain there until 1832, at and after which time, its permanent seat was to be at

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\* The oration was delivered from a platform, covered with an awning, over the gateway of the State house yard, the speaker looking towards the edifice.



Augusta. An act to this effect was thereupon passed, and the resolve, in favor of Hallowell, repealed.

This arrangement was followed by appropriations for the erection of the State house, the corner stone of which was afterwards laid by Governor Lincoln, with appropriate ceremonies. That gentleman died in this town while yet in office as Chief Magistrate, and was interred, with the honors due to his rank, on the public grounds in front of the State house, where his remains are now entombed. His elder brother, then Governor of Massachusetts, attended as chief mourner on that occasion.

At a distance from the sea, at the head of navigation, with a depth of water admitting vessels only of a moderate size, our river obstructed by ice four months in the year, and near to rival towns and villages, we have been constrained to look to manufactures, to advance our progress and give employment to our population.

With a view to create a water power for this purpose, the Kennebec dam was built nearly twenty years ago, at an expense of three hundred thousand dollars. Mills were erected, and the enterprize was thought hopeful. But when the water was high, the river was found too much compressed for the safety of the dam. Spurning the bounds within which it was attempted to be confined, it made a lateral breach, bearing off with irresistible power acres of solid earth from the right bank of the river, until the mass of water raised by the dam for fifteen miles had passed away.

The dam itself, which was built with great strength, was very little injured; but the river had receded from its eastern end two hundred feet, in consequence of the excavation caused by the action of the water.

This disastrous catastrophe was not without its compensation. The river acquired such an expansion at and near the dam, compared with what it has below, that the fall at the dam diminishes as the water rises, and thus the pressure above is nearly counterpoised by the rise of the water below. The basin created by the excavation affords more safe and convenient sites for mills. In addition to these advantages, a permanent ledge was disclosed, upon which the dam was extended with ease and safety as far as the bank had receded.

No reasonable doubt remains that the artificial power created by the dam may be preserved. The fruits of this enterprize, long delayed and assailed both by fire and flood, are now in a fair way to be realized.

It has taken an hundred years to bring our city to its present condition. Its growth has been generally slow, sometimes scarcely perceptible, with occasional periods of active progress. It is not without attraction and beauty. I have reference to its landscape, and the panorama which is presented from favored positions. That it has beauty and attraction of another kind, which cannot fail to be appreciated by younger eyes, there is abundant proof on the present occasion.

It has quite a number of beautiful private residences on both sides of the river, embellished by gardens, trees and shrubbery, which, when in full foliage, are grateful and refreshing to the eye. Besides its places of public worship, with their graceful spires, the Cony female academy and the neat and tasteful high school house, it has the State House, with its soaring dome and imposing facade, the buildings on the Arsenal grounds, the Insane Hospital and the court house; all of native granite, which will remain through the coming ages monuments of what has been accomplished in our first century.

The first mail provided for our accommodation, was carried on horseback to and from Boston once a fortnight. Long since my remembrance, we did not receive a mail from that city until the fourth day. Nine hours are now sufficient for its transit; and if it chance to be delayed, we become impatient, and by the magnetic telegraph inquire what can have happened.

By the same medium a few hours are now sufficient to send interrogatories to New Orleans and to all intervening stations, and to receive answers. What was done in Washington yesterday, is known here to-day. A distinguished Statesman addresses a comparatively small number there within the sound of his voice, but he speaks along the wires to the whole union. His well turned periods and glowing language issue, almost simultaneously, from the presses of all the great cities.

This miracle of intercommunication pervades Europe; and bearing intelligence from the great centres, St. Petersburg, Ber-



lin, Vienna and Paris, it crosses beneath the waters of the English channel, and comes to us in less than fourteen days from London and Liverpool. The deep anxiety with which we awaited intelligence from Europe, during the stirring period of the wars of the French revolution, is fresh in my remembrance. According to the season of the year, it might be delayed from thirty to sixty days. The battle of Waterloo, which put an end to the career of Bonaparte, was fought on the eighteenth of June, but it was not known here until the first of August.

In one hundred years the population of Maine has expanded from probably less than forty thousand, to over six hundred thousand at this time. When compared, however, with the growth of the western country, it is quite thrown into the shade. The age of Augusta is twice that of Cincinnati, the queen city of the west, which is now in numbers in advance of Boston. Chicago, with sixty thousand, has been settled but about twenty years.

The French fort, Du Quesne, was built in 1754, the year from which Fort Western dates, on the site of what is now Pittsburgh. It was there that Braddock fell the following year; a fate he might have escaped, if his pride could have suffered him to be advised by a provincial officer. Pittsburgh, which started from the same period with Augusta, including its immediate contiguous suburbs, has a population of one hundred thousand.

The portion of the Union which lies north-west of the Ohio, and east of the Mississippi, had not forty thousand inhabitants at the first census, where there are now more than five millions. One of the reasons why emigration from the older States took a direction west, instead of eastward, was the impression very generally entertained of the severe climate and sterility of Maine. In truth the climate differs very little from that of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and the northern part of New York. Its soil is good, and will liberally reward agricultural labor judiciously applied. The west has received, in addition to accessions from the older States, a vast foreign emigration.

I trust this State is destined to be better understood and appreciated. It is more frequently visited from abroad. Steamboats and railroads have increased the facilities for doing so. The Atlantic and St. Lawrence railroad has opened a communication

with the Canadas, the trade and improvement, as well as population of which, are rapidly advancing. This cannot fail to bring forward the western part of our State.

Moosehead lake is becoming a point of attraction. The rapid actual and prospective growth of Bangor will stimulate the extensive region connected with the Penobscot waters. With the rise and prosperity of the country east and west, the central Kennebec region must necessarily participate. We want towns and cities. Without them high culture and civilization are not to be expected.

If we will that our city shall grow, there is a way. The noble Kossuth was right in throwing upon this sentiment the fervor of his eloquence. Where there is a will, there is a way. We must open and cherish new sources of business and project measures to give employment to our citizens, and quicken industry. We must set more of our water power at work, and send what may be thus produced into the general market. Let nothing be purchased abroad, which can be made profitably at home. Thus capital may be saved and accumulated to develop our resources.

Having glanced at some of the more salient points in our history, a brief period only remains for what may be more appropriate to the birth day of our nation. I will at once relieve my audience from the apprehension that I shall detain them upon the topics of the revolution, and the subsequent establishment of our political institutions. It is the present and the future of our nation, which has the principal claim upon our attention.

The American eagle has strong pinions. Starting from the St. Mary's, our original southern boundary, passing round the coast of Florida, near to the Antilles, he wings his way across the gulf of Mexico to the mouth of the Rio Grande, thence looking towards the setting sun and resting for a short period upon the summit of the Rocky Mountains, his flight has been extended to that vast and tranquil ocean, which laves the eastern shore of the old continent. Thence turning northward to the forty-ninth parallel of latitude, he there wheels, with an unblenched eye, towards the rising sun, and continues his flight for three thousand miles to the Atlantic ocean.

Well may the heart of the patriot dilate at the contemplation of these magnificent boundaries. Westward the star of empire



takes its way. What the far-seeing Bishop Berkley predicted, our eyes have witnessed ; and it is yet to receive a more splendid fulfillment. Much land within our ample domain, rich and fertile, remains to be subdued. We receive with open arms the myriads which seek our country, for new habitations from western Europe.

Ancient Cathay, the central flowery kingdom, sends thousands of emigrants to our Pacific shores. They are a shrewd, industrious people, all trained to a knowledge of letters, and many to commerce and the arts ; needing only to be evangelized, to reach the highest forms of civilization. An overruling Providence is evidently accelerating that event, which will bring as new converts within the pale of christianity, one-third part of the human race.

The new power there, which has passed triumphantly from south to north, almost to the gates of Peking, and which is about to overthrow the Manchoo dynasty, acknowledges Jesus Christ and repudiates idolatry. This transition is yet imperfect and mingled with many errors. But when a reading and intelligent people have abandoned their prejudices and receive the Bible with reverence, there is a decided movement in the right path.

From our vast extension and increasing numbers, it should be remembered both by the people and those to whom power is delegated, that legislation for such an empire is no light trust.

But regarded as a great power soon to take the first place among the nations, our foreign relations rise in importance. We are called upon to watch the course of events ; especially in those parts of the world with which we have the most frequent intercourse.

After forty years peace, with slight interruptions, the great powers of Europe are marshalling their hosts upon the battle field. We may be affected by aggressions upon our neutral rights. At present forbearance is the policy of the maritime belligerents. That is a frail security, liable to fluctuate as the war assumes new aspects. Our immunity from these aggressions by which we were plundered and dishonored at a former period, depends under Providence, upon our own power.

While it becomes us to be cautious, to give no just cause of offence, self respect forbids us to submit to wrong. At what period we should inflict upon offending nations the retribution

which wrong justifies and which the prestige of power requires, it belongs to ourselves to determine. In a great power forbearance is not weakness, but magnanimity.

But besides the vigilance which the protection of our own rights renders necessary, as an important member of the community of nations, our opinions, whether exhibited in the halls of Congress or in the tone and comments of our leading presses, have an important moral influence upon the world. It is essential, therefore, that we should be well advised with respect to the diplomacy, movement and action of the powers now in conflict. The antagonism between governments and people, which is fermenting in many parts of Europe, complicates the condition of things and baffles the forecast of statesmen.

The immediate ground of contention is, whether the principal Moslem power shall be overthrown or sustained. The autocrat has declared it dead or dying. It has since given so many signs of life and inflicted upon him such severe blows, that he will hardly persist in that opinion.

That power, however, is evidently waning. It reached its culminating point before Europe, under the joint influence of the reformation, the invention of printing, the revival of commerce and the development of science and the arts, had brought into strong contrast the condition of humanity, which is the result of the gospel on the one hand, and of the koran on the other. If the Moslem delusion had not been long doomed by divine prescience, it is manifest that it cannot sustain itself against the light of the age.

The autocrat, the master of a nation of serfs and the avowed champion of despotism, pure and absolute, claims to be the agent of heaven, in giving to christianity again the ascendancy in its ancient seats. He is repelled by France and England insisting that the continuance of Turkish power is essential for the double purpose of curbing his ambition and of restraining the different races, and the various sects of christians in Turkey and Europe, from destroying each other.

The autocrat will not suffer the resuscitation of the Byzantine empire, but purposes to divide Turkey into States and principalities, under his protection. France and England do not favor the



establishment of a christian power there, upon the ground that it would not possess sufficient elements of strength, without its Moslem masters, for its own protection.

That the christian subjects of Turkey have been long debased by servitude, with the additional thraldom which a corrupt creed and an ignorant and bigoted priesthood have imposed, is without doubt true ; but these evils may be removed by the diffusion of education and a more active intercourse with western Europe.

There is little reason to believe that the war now raging will be of short continuance, or that the sphere of its action will be contracted. It is much more probable that it will bring other nations within its vortex. When it shall have exhausted itself, he would be a bold and presumptuous man who would undertake to predict the basis of its pacification. I doubt not, it will turn out to be an act in the drama of the world, which will hasten the advent of a more propitious era.

The policy of this country is peace, not conquest. It is certainly sufficiently extended. Our effort should now be to develope its resources, and to bring forward and cultivate its unsettled territory. It should be our fervent desire, that our diplomacy with foreign nations should be so tempered with moderation and firmness, that we may escape being involved in their conflicts ; and it is grateful to feel assured that what prudence dictates, the claims and interests of humanity do not forbid.

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